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Ground Zero News

Circulation over 2000 this month and growing!

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BRUCE BENSON
Skeletons in the closet

by Rick Cendo

While most Coloradans are all too familiar with the "family values" that Gubernatorial candidate Bruce Benson practiced toward his first wife before abandoning her, fewer are familiar with his "family values" position on homosexuality. Fewer still are familiar with the shifting and strange rationale Bruce Benson has provided for his support of Amendment 2.

First things first. As he began his campaign for governor, Benson told the Denver Post that he had voted for Amendment 2, the now invalidated ballot initiative that would have robbed gay men and lesbians of a fundamental right under the U. S. Constitution.

But it wasn't an easy vote, Benson said. In fact, it was a vote over which he "agonized."

Later, however, Equality Colorado discovered that Benson had not merely voted for Amendment 2. He also signed the Colorado for Family Values' petition putting Amendment 2 on the ballot.

Hmmm. When you're so unsure of an issue that it causes agony, you usually do not sign a petition putting that issue on the ballot. On the other hand, there's no law saying one must firmly believe in an initiative for which one is petitioning. Perhaps Benson was also in agony when signing CFV's dotted line.

But whatever agony Benson feels over Amendment 2, he has certainly done a good job of hiding it when on talk radio.

This is how Benson explained his support for Amendment 2 on Denver's KHOW on August 29, 1994: "As a businessman, I was in a situation once where we had a serious lawsuit when a person got fired for all kinds of just reasons and causes. And by the time it got done the company had spent $250,000 defending it and the company won. And I don't want to give any more special status than I have to give."

There you have it. A decisive, big businessman telling us like it is, in a decisive, big businessman kind of way. The only problem is that Benson's story doesn't check out.

When the Rocky Mountain News' Katie Kerwin related Benson's harrowing business story of gay litigation costs, she said the company Benson was talking about was "Bank West." But there is no Bank West, at least not in Denver. When this reporter asked the Benson campaign, spokesperson Greg Sparrow said the company Benson was talking about is actually Bank Western.

There was indeed a Bank Western, before it was purchased last year by Colorado National Bank. And Benson had, in fact, once sat on Bank Western's Board of Directors.

And so far so good. The only problem is that Bank Western was never sued for discriminating against a gay person. According to CNB spokesperson Michael-Pickett, Bank Western had faced a major AIDS discrimination lawsuit, but "it didn't have anything to do with the person's sexual orientation." In fact, CNB does not know whether the man sued over AIDS discrimination was gay or straight.

After discussing the matter further with both Benson's office and the News' Katie Kerwin, we all concluded that Benson must have been talking about an AIDS discrimination lawsuit in explaining his support for Amendment 2. That explains why, in another talk radio program, the villain in Benson's litigation story is a person with AIDS, rather than a gay person.

That solved, there still remains a big problem. Amendment 2 has nothing to do with AIDS discrimination. AIDS discrimination is banned by Federal law, which overrides any state amendment. So even if Amendment 2 said anything about AIDS, which it didn't, it would not have been able to save Bank Western any of the $250,000 that Benson claims it wasted on litigations. (CNB said it does not know how much Bank Western spent.)

One friend surmised that Benson probably has trouble distinguishing between gays and AIDS. To him, they pretty much mean that same thing. Therefore, he does not really see the rational shortfalls in using an AIDS discrimination case to explain his support of Amendment 2. And when a man with AIDS claims discrimination on account of an illness, Benson sees a gay man claiming discrimination on account of his sexual orientation.

Moving beyond Amendment 2, Benson said on another talk radio show that he believes "a major cause" of homosexuality is a domineering mother. He also told a caller that he would be interested in looking at programs that claim to be able to "cure" homosexuals by turning us into heterosexuals.

Benson has advocated the closet for gays, saying, "I may not condone their lifestyle, but if they keep it to themselves, that's fine."

On a positive note, Benson has said, "I've worked with some very fine gays in my life that do a very good job . And whatever their life style is their business and not mine."

That's not much comfort, though. Despite having "fine gays" in his life, Benson apparently never took the time and effort to learn from these gays:

1) that both gay and AIDS discrimination is wrong.

2) that there is a difference between the two.

3) that homosexuality is not caused by a domineering mother.

4) that the closet is no place for anybody.

Benson did not achieve this rudimentary understanding while in direct contact with "fine gays" who presumably worked for him. It's doubtful he'll gain anymore understanding of gays as governor of Colorado--even if he has to agonize over us some more. λ

Election and Campaign News can be found on Pages 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 15!!

Perhaps America will one day go fascist democratically, by popular vote.--William L. Shirer

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE Nov.8th

YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT !!!?!

Ground Zero has recently come into possession of a book of lesbian cartoons, called *STAY TOONED, by Rhonda Dickson that is worthy of mention and even a trip to the bookstore to buy. Below is one sample (and you'll get no more). (The Naiad Press, 1993).*

YOU KNOW, THEY SAY THEY'RE EVERYWHERE BUT I'LL BET YOU 100 BUCKS I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO'S GAY.
LESBIAN SURVIVAL HINT #211:
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT TO COME OUT, YOU'LL KNOW.

CONTINUING IN THIS ISSUE

How does a child deal with the knowledge that his father is gay and his mother is a lesbian? *Ground Zero* has been given permission by Noel Black, a recent graduate of Lake Forrest College, to excerpt his award winning thesis entitled *Understanding Difference Through Paradox*. In this work Noel pursues both a personal and academic exploration of coming to terms with his parents' sexuality and his relationship with them. It is a fascinating and moving account of dealing with two gay parents in a homophobic society. This series began last issue and will run for several months. **(See P. 11)**

SPECIAL THANKS

Ground Zero is especially grateful to the United Court of the Rising Empire for two grants, totalling $700, made to us in October. Our bank balance was low and the help was badly needed.

Also, member David Schacter came to town a few months ago for a temporary assignment. His grant to Ground Zero of $1,000 was put to good use. Thanks David. Good Luck in Boise.

MOVING????

Well, your GZN won't follow unless you let us know where you are. We mail Non-Profit Bulk Rate and that mail goes in the trash if not deliverable to the address on the mailing label!!! Editor

GROUND ZERO

A lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered supportive movement dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to unifying and promoting full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered citizens in the community at large through the means of education, coalition, and visibility.

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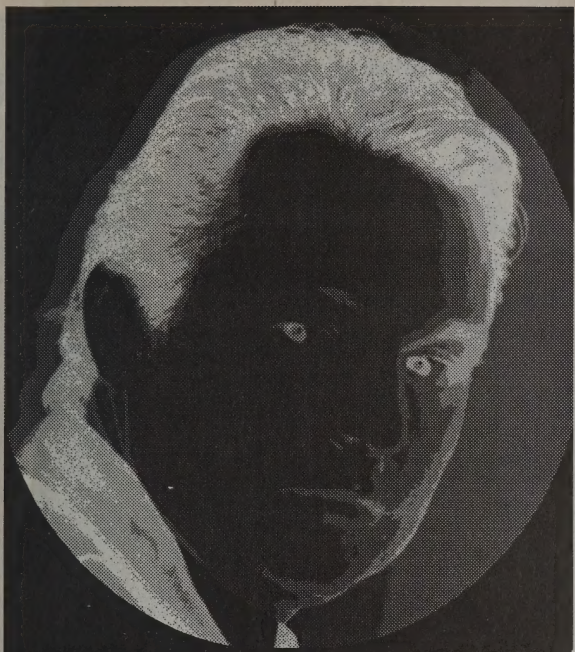


A Darker side of Kevin Tebedo, Director of Colorado For Family Values, reported.

Police Report Filed

Kevin Tebedo Hits Rita Ague, Minority Coalition Board Member

According to Rita Ague, local activist and member of the Board of the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition, Kevin Tebedo, Director of Colorado for Family Values, struck her after the two had appeared on the NOON JENNINGS AND JENNINGS SHOW ON KKTV to discuss whether a Human Relations Commission is needed. The showed aired live on Tuesday, October 25th.

Ague reports that the incident occurred behind the set at the TV station while she, Tebedo and Jim Smith Sr., Black Coalition member, were holding a conversation. Interestingly, Smith had just made an eloquent and impassioned plea for the need for a Human Relations Commission on the show, citing all of the violence in Colorado Springs.

Tebedo made reference to an appearance he had made on a talk show, Ague recalls. Twice Tebedo mentioned a woman saying to him that he was a white male Christian heterosexual. Tebedo claimed that this was discrimination.

Mystified, continues Ague, she asked Tebedo how this was discrimination. First, she said, you are obviously a white male--to which Tebedo replied yes; you claim to be Christian, right? Which evoked a strong YES.

Further perplexed, Ague then stated the obvious, asking Tebedo, "You're not telling us you aren't heterosexual are you Kevin?"

Angered, says Ague, Tebedo struck her in the arm with with a clenched fist with force, stating angrily, "YOU AND I ARE GOING TO FIGHT," not once but, rather, twice. The blow pushed Ague, back and she reports that it caused her severe pain in an arm for which she is already receiving medical treatment..

"I was stunned, " said Ague. "Stunned and shocked that Tebedo would hit me. I went back on the set where Sylvia and Wayne were standing and mentioned the incident to them. As much as Tebedo striking me hurt me, I was frightened by the tone of his voice when he said that he and I were going to fight. Quite frankly, I am concerned for my safety and the safety of my family. He didn't seem like a well man to me."

"It was fear of future problems and for my family that most concerned me. After talking with several friends and the police department, I determined that it would be best to file charges of harassment. Perhaps, if there were an effective Human Relations Commission, I would have gone to them."

"You know," Ague concluded, "I am just shocked that he would hit a woman--any woman--like that. If he would do that, there is no telling what he is capable of."

The Colorado Springs Minority Coalition reports it will shortly begin to place billboards with similar, though not exact, themes of this sample. A picture or statement will appear in this box.

Intolerance Bigotry Child Abuse
Neglect Domestic Violence
Discrimination Gangs Exclusion
Segregation Mono-Culturalism

MUST OUR CHILDREN LEARN TO HATE?

Join The Resistance

THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINORITY COALITION
P.O. Box 1975 Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

Simple Justice, an organization that concerns itself with legislative and political activity of importance to the gay and lesbian community, has issued a press release as follows in regard the forthcoming election:

Election Evaluation

KEY: ↑ Good/OK ↓ = Bad News — = Don't Know

GOVERNOR:
Roy Romer ↑
Bruce Benson ↓

State Rep. Dist. 15:
W.C. Parker --
Ronny May ↓

State Rep. Dist. 17:
P.M. Wynn ↑ ↑
Andy McElhany ↑

State Rep. Dist. 22:
Shawn Yocum Alford ↑
Marcy Morrison ↑

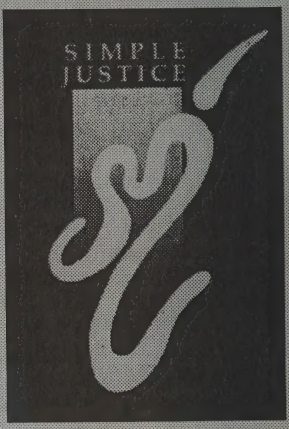
County Commissioner Dist. 5:
Lee Milner ↑ ↑
Ed Jones ↓ ↓

County Sheriff:
John Anderson ↑
David Boyd ↓

Senator Dist. 9:
Ben Glidden ↑
Charles Duke ↓ ↓

State Rep. Dist. 16:
Peter Aubrey ↑
Bill Martin --

State Rep. Dist. 19:
Donald Davidson ↑
Mary Ellen Epps ↓



For more information
Call Marion 632-9775 or
Mike 528-6920

State Supreme Justice: William H. Erickson ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
(This is the Justice that voted NOT to find Amendment 2 unconstitutional in the Court's 6 to 1 decision)

Referendum A: YES

Amendment 12: NO

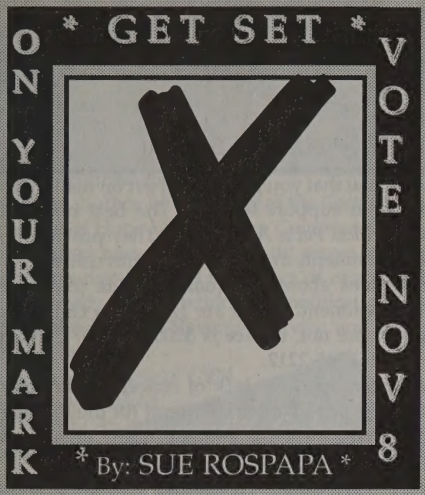
Amendment 16: NO

In addition to the above:, *EQUALITY PAC* issued a press release giving high marks to the following:

FOR Secretary of State SHERRI WOLFF
FOR Attorney General DICK FREESE
FOR State Treasurer DAPHNE GREENWOOD
FOR Regent at Large UC RAY MUNOZ
FOR Referendum A

GROUND ZERO does not endorse candidates or issues.

These reports are printed as a service to our membership who are encouraged to take the time to learn all sides of the issues and to take the time to be informed about all the candidates and by all means, to vote..



An interesting race is being run for County Commissioner in District #5 where Lee Milner is opposed by Ed Jones.

"The District 5 contest may be one of the hottest in local politics as Jones battles Milner in this urban Colorado Springs district. Now held by Gary Shupp, a Republican who is not seeking re-election, the seat is up for grabs for the first time in years," according to the *Gazette Telegraph.*

Who are these men?

Lee Milner describes himself as an advocate for managing and enhancing our quality of life. Some of his listed accomplishments are President of the Pikes Peak Trails Coalition, Chair of the Air Quality Committee of El Paso County, member of the Economic Conversion Committee to change from a military economy to a more diverse one, college teacher, real estate broker, small businessman, community action worker to build affordable housing....

Milner sees a need to end double taxation. If elected, Milner will push to "fight to make sure more of the county tax dollars we are paying goes to serve urban needs. Sheriff patrols should be paid for by people living outside the cities of El Paso County... Also, county road and bridge tax needs to be used, in part, for urban transportation needs."

Milner insists that a political leader "must have IDEALS to lead the community away from HATE and toward HARMONY. CULTURALLY, we must accept everyone's DREAM of what's best for themselves. We need to end discrimination leading to loss of opportunity based on race, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or disability."

From all reports, Lee Milner has reached out to widely diverse elements of El Paso County.

λ

Pam Zubeck writes in the *Gazette Telegraph* on Oct. 7 that "Ed Jones, an El Paso County Commission candidate, has serious financial problems that include federal tax liens and a large civil judgement he has not paid," in a suit he failed to answer.

Zubeck also reports (*GT*, Sept . 30, 1994), that "Jones is a conservative Republican who spurns affirmative action and equal opportunity programs and stresses personal responsibility." At the same time, it was reported that Jones carried no auto insurance when he had his accident and that his campaign literature falsely claimed that he was a college graduate.

Jones has been a resident of Colorado Springs for 31 years. He has sat on the Human Rights Commission and led the attack to disband the HRC because of the involvement of one GLBT group (Ground Zero) in the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition (with whom the chair of the Commission was holding dialogue.)

According to the *Gazette Telegraph*, Sept 30, some leaders in the Colorado Springs Black community say Jones has sold his soul to conservatism, which they consider insensitive to the needs of Black Americans.

"Ed Jones doesn't seem to be in tune with the needs that come naturally with the black community," said Jim Smith, of the Black Coalition of Concerned Citizens. "He seems to have a theory that whatever our plight is in life, then it's our fault because we're not pulling ourselves up by the bootstraps and forging ahead. He seems like a person who is down on his own people."

Some fear that if Jones is elected, he will automatically be anointed the spokesman for the black community.

"A lot of conservative white Republicans and Democrats will hear his voice and see him and think he represents the voice of the black community," said another black leader who wished to remain anonymous. "Rather than help the Republicans understand the pains and needs of the black community, he won't reach out to listen or help move things forward."

James Tucker, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), is quoted as saying that Jones "is not connected. He's sold out to the Republican Party, and when you sell your soul to the devil, you pretty much have to do what they tell you to do."

λ

The Independent newspaper said of Lee Milner, "County commissioners have broad jurisdiction over land use and planning matters. Milner has the skills and foresight to balance our need for economic growth with our need to preserve our natural environment. The skills Lee Milner has acquired as president of the Pikes Peak Trials Coalition and as a local businessman make him the best qualified candidate."

EL PASO COUNTY AND AIDS TREATMENT.
Life expectancy for HIV patients is 58% shorter here than in San Francisco.

A Viewpoint from Stan Wright, Emperor XIX, UCRSE

The more I read about the AIDS epidemic in this country, the angrier I get. The American Foundation for Aids Research (AMFAR) recently published information showing that the life expectancy of those infected with the HIV virus in El Paso County (and similar counties) to be only 7 to 8 years. At the same time, the study shows, HIV infected individuals in areas like San Francisco can expect to live twelve or more years.

It could easily be argued that this large difference can be attributable to the high levels of Clinical Trials being conducted in the larger cities as opposed to relatively few in areas like El Paso County. This is very simplistic, however. The truth is that there are very few doctors in El Paso County who will treat HIV infected patients or who have the expertise to do so. A part of my job is to refer patients to doctors. Essentially every doctor I normally refer HIV+ patients to are no longer accepting these patients, especially if these patients are covered by Medicaid.

Another difficulty can be found in the general lack of prescription for prophylaxis (preventative medications) in El Paso County. As an example, nationwide PCP is not a major killer because doctors are prescribing Bactrim when a person's CD4 count drops below 300. In El Paso County, standard procedure is for Bactrim to only be prescribed after onset of PCP even though it is widely known that Bactrim is less effective after an onset. PCP is one of the major killers of AIDs patients in El Paso County.

PCP is not the only opportunistic infection that can be prevented in HIV+ patients. Being positive means getting involved with your medical provider and asking a lot of questions. In some cases, you must be prepared to demand action.

I have always worked on the financial side of HIV treatment. There is a vast difference between questions asked of me by my clients in El Paso County and those who live in Denver. In El Paso County, the number one questions is 'WHERE DO I GET A DOCTOR.' This is usually followed by a request for locations where one can get treatment and information on prolonging onset of the disease.

Often, patients in El Paso County who have lost 10% or more of body weight have received no counseling on the drug Marinol, that can add weight, and most have not had it prescribed. I know many people in the County with Karposi Sarcoma and not one was informed that K.S. is treatable at an early stage if detected.

Patients in Denver seem to be well informed of these and many other facts an HIV+ individual needs to know. What it comes down to is a lack of aggressive education in El Paso County concerning HIV and AIDS. As an example, if you are HIV+, don't expect the *Gazette Telelie* to print the information you need to know to stay alive.

It is essential that you get out and get on mailing list of HIV informational support services. The best one that I have found is *Critical Paths Aids Project*. They provide a complete listing of treatments available along with side effects and recommendations about the quality of life that be expected from the treatment. If you are HIV+ you can subscribe for free (if you are not, the fee is $200 a year). Contact *Critical Paths* at (215) 545-2212.

There is an apparent lack of concern in El Paso County from the Mayor to Dr. John Potterat (of the El Paso County Health Department). Dr. Potterat, oddly enough, seems to believe that AIDS is not a significant problem.

Until people stand up and say 'enough is enough,' the premature deaths are going to continue. I urge all of you to call your elected officials and demand passage of a comprehensive health care package as well as funding for clinical trial doctors to support their going into smaller communities like ours.

Until we have a universal health care plan, those people on Medicaid will continue to receive sub-standard treatment in El Paso County. A treatment such as Foscavcir (for CMV Retinitis) costs $23,000 annually and Procrit (for AIDs related Anemia) costs $8,000 for the same period.

Despite Kevin Tebedo's claims that Queers are getting rich off the AIDS epidemic, it is apparent that it is the doctors, the pharmaceutical companies, and the mortuaries who are raking it in.

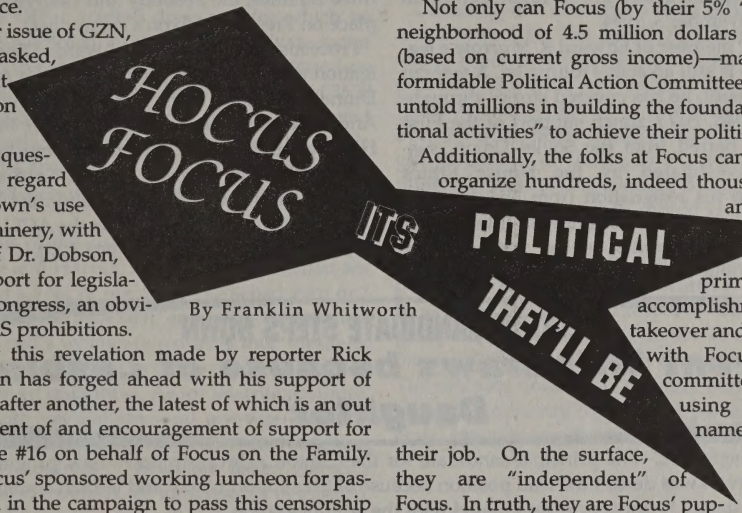
Queers just die of AIDS (along with many others). If CFV and Focus on the Family were truly concerned about this country, they would stop with the bigotry and hate and join in the battle against this dreaded disease that has now affected or infected all of us in one way or another. λ

A Notice from Denver's LESBIAN AVENGERS

The Lesbian Avengers will sponsor a protest of Attorney Gale Norton's reckless spending of state funds to support the deadend appeals of Amendment 2 and the payment of discredited witnesses.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2
4 to 7 pm.
CORNER OF SHERIDAN AND COLFAX
(1525 Sheridan Denver)
For Further Information Call Tiffany at (303) 839-5081

Dobson's Focus on the Family continues to flaunt IRS and Post Office Regulations



By Franklin Whitworth

In recent issues of Ground Zero News, the political activities of Focus on the Family and its leader Dr. James Dobson have been called into question. Ground Zero is, in fact, cooperating with an effort being coordinated by Dr. Mel White (author of "Stranger at the Gate and Dean of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas) to gather materials that would prove (or disprove) our contention that Focus is in danger of overstepping, or has overstepped, its limitations on political activities as defined by the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Postal Service.

In the September issue of GZN, the question was asked, "Which Will It Be—Political Action Committee or Ministry?" This question was put in regard Senator Hank Brown's use of the Focus' machinery, with the cooperation of Dr. Dobson, to encourage support for legislation pending in Congress, an obvious violation of IRS prohibitions.

Undaunted by this revelation made by reporter Rick Cendo, Dr. Dobson has forged ahead with his support of one political issue after another, the latest of which is an out and out endorsement of and encouragement of support for Colorado Initiative #16 on behalf of Focus on the Family. This includes a Focus' sponsored working luncheon for pastors to enlist them in the campaign to pass this censorship initiative.

In a letter dated September 9 and sent to pastors across the state, H. B. London Jr., Vice President of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries at Focus, invited pastors to attend said luncheon on October 3 "...to enlist your support in informing your congregation about the coming campaign for this initiative."

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Dobson sent a two page letter statewide to his supporters touting passage of Initiative 16. Throughout this letter, he displays his penchant for disinformation and outright lies pertaining to the purpose of and effects of Initiative 16, largely viewed not as an attack on pornography, which it isn't, and as having nothing to do with child pornography, which it doesn't, but rather as a license for broadscale censorship activities.

This article, however, is not to take a position on whether one should vote for or against this legislation. It is about Dobson continuing to flaunt his self-perceived invulnerability to the laws that govern most non-profits—that they shall not endorse candidates, seek to influence legislation--Dobson and his Focus on the Family are clearly in direct violation of these prohibitions.

Dobson has developed the theory that he can spend up to 5% of Focus income on "political" activity. Many believe that this does not, however, allow him to directly seek to influence elections and legislation. (Initiatives are considered legislation). It is also important to note that this 5% "limit" is not law—while it may be common practice.

It is also important to note that this 5% "limit" applies only to involvement that can be directly related to political activity—not activity that has as its subverted purpose the influencing of political or legislative decisions, even though said activity is buried in loftier "ecucational" activities.

Not only can Focus (by their 5% "limit") spend in the neighborhood of 4.5 million dollars for political activity (based on current gross income)—making them indeed a formidable Political Action Committee--they can also spend untold millions in building the foundation through "educational activities" to achieve their political goals.

Additionally, the folks at Focus can and have helped to organize hundreds, indeed thousands, of committees and organizations nationwide that have as their prime objectives the accomplishment of local political takeover and control. Once set up with Focus' guidance, these committees, that are found using many different names, are set free to do their job. On the surface, they are "independent" of Focus. In truth, they are Focus' puppets in complete and constant contact with the Mother office and totally committed to supporting the political agenda of Focus on the Family and its megalomaniacal leader, Dr. James Dobson.

The organization headed by Gary Bauer, the Family Research Council, is in actuality Dr. James Dobson's child and is totally beholden to him. A few years ago, because he feared that the political activity of this group would taint Focus' IRS tax-exempt status, Dobson severed some of his ties with FRC and stepped down as chairman. The last this reporter knew, however, Dr. Dobson was still on the Board of this politically motivated "research " group and he often uses their "independent" research to support and promote his myths, lies and misrepresentations to further his political agenda. The Family Research Council is probably one of the biggest blights in existence on the reputation of "legitimate" research organizations.

Dr. James Dobson and his Focus Empire are fast becoming, if they are not already, one of the most influential political forces in America. In fact, this political influence is being extended around the world. When one gets so much power that he believes he is invulnerable, he becomes dangerous. By flaunting his disregard for IRS regulations, is Dr. Dobson beginning to demonstrate this trait? λ

Daniel Schorr Featured Speaker

ACLU Annual Awards Dinner Slated For November 3

DENVER, CO...Daniel Schorr, Senior News Analyst for National Public Radio, is the featured speaker at the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado's Annual Award Dinner at the Westin Hotel in the Tabor Center on Thursday evening, November 3, 1994.

Mr. Schorr is the only member of Edward R. Murrow's legendary CBS team who is still an active journalist. A veteran reporter and commentator, he has covered stories throughout the world since 1946. His staunch support of the First Amendment got him barred from the Soviet Union, suspended by CBS, investigated by the House Ethics Committee, and led to his resignation from Ted Turner's CNN. In addition to his current assignment--interpreting national and international events as the Senior News Analyst for National Public Radio, Mr. Schorr participates in live television coverage and specials for PBS, has narrated a recent cable TV series, writes for newspapers and magazines, and lectures widely. Among his many honors are three Emmies, the Peabody and George Polk awards, and a place on President Nixon's enemy list.

Proceeds from the Annual Awards Dinner support the litigation and education programs of the ACLU of Colorado. Dinner co-chairs are Mayor Wellington Webb, Ellen Anderman, Buie Seawell and Denver Post Columnist Bill Hornby. Being honored for their commitment to civil liberties are the late Penfield Tate II, Gordon Greiner, George Morgan and Rocky Mountain columnist Gene Amole.

For ticket information, contact the ACLU at (303) 777-5482, or fax your requests to (303) 777-1773. λ

CLINTON CANDIDATE STEPS DOWN

Parent Withdraws because of Lesbian Daughter

*October 20, 1994-Washington DC--*The principal candidate for the Clinton Administration's new program to add 100,000 police officers to the streets was denied the lead position because of his support of gay and lesbian equality. Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) stated, "I am very disappointed with the administration."

Tom Potter, former Portland OR Police Chief and long time P-FLAG supporter, was told by John R. Schmidt, 3rd in command at the Department of Justice, that his support for lesbian and gay equality was a "problem." Potter, the father of a lesbian, who is also a police officer, has supported his daughter and encouraged lesbian and gay citizens to join he police force.

Representative Ron Wyden of Portland [D-OR) in a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno referred to the administration's apparent new policy as "don't ask, don't tell-don't stand up for equal rights."

Potter, when asked for his perspective remarked, "Members of Congress are asking for an investigation into the case. There is, I believe, a very distinct tie between my candidacy and the controversy in support of gay and lesbian equality. I was, in fact, offered the job. *The New York Times* is incorrect. The job was tentative only on White House approval, which happened, and a FBI background check. I did a drug test and met with people. I was ready to assume the position."

"The fact that he speaks out and acts to ensure that all citizens are safe prejudiced his candidacy is appalling," commented Sandra Gillis, Executive Director of P-FLAG. "This is a prime example of what the Employment Non-Discrimination Act could prevent--job discrimination based on sexual orientation for gays and lesbians and for those associated with gay and lesbian people. It is a crime that this sort of discrimination is permitted to continue towards our families and loved ones." **P-FLAG NATIONAL has issued the following ACTION ALERT.**

P-FLAG has been asked by Members of Congress to encourage interested parties to contact the administration, both the White House and the Department of Justice.

E-MAIL the White house at: President@whitehouse.gov
Call the White House at : 1-202-456-1414 or FAX to 202-456-2461
Write to: President, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20500
Call the Department of Justice at: 202-514-4195 or FAX to 202-514-0468
Write to: DOJ, Constitution Ave. and 10th St, Washington DC 20530 Attn: Janet Reno. λ

The Numbers Game

Opinion

By Frank M.

"Sex in America — Surprising News from the Most Important Study Since the Kinsey Report!!" Thus *TIME* screams from its cover of the Oct. 17th issue. And from all the studies one question always arises: "How many homosexuals are there?" But what do these studies show, and are they important to anyone's lives?

They always create a stir. As Hugh Hefner said about this most recent one, "Our puritan roots are deep. We're fascinated by sex and afraid of it." This newest one from the University of Chicago is the one Jesse Helms never wanted done and for which he sabotaged government funding. With private sector sponsorship the study went forward. It is based on face to face interviews with a random sample of 3500 people 18 to 59. Many of those originally selected refused to participate and some of those who finally did had to be approached 15 times; this is hardly a topic in most people's comfort zones, but more on that later.

The results of the survey show an America right out of Ozzie and Harriet. 1/3 of Americans had sex a "few times a year or not at all"; 83% had zero or 1 partner during the past year, and a typical man has six partners and a woman two during their lifetimes. 75% of men and 85% of women who are married have never been unfaithful. As for favorite pastimes, 96% were into vaginal sex; oral sex was a distant third to the number two favorite turn on "watching your partner undress". Even the recent *Advocate* cover girl and nemesis of progressive feminism, Camille Paglia commented, "I'm delighted to hear that all this talk about rampant infidelity was wildly inflated, but if they're saying the sexual revolution never happened, its ridiculous."

As for gays 1% of women and 3% of men self identified as homosexual; the same percentages have had sex with someone of the same sex in the past year (does this sound a bit odd?); 4 % of women and 5% of men have had such experiences since puberty, and 8% of both sexes have felt same sex interest.

Responses to these modest percentages varied. Robert Knight of the Family Research Council (an appendage of Focus on the Family) said, "I think the figures are probably inflated. *Many people say they are gay and bisexual because of cultural indoctrination in the public schools.*" (our Italics) What planet does this man live on? Stuart Michaels, speaking for the team who conducted the study, is more in touch with the realities of the late 20th century, "There is no way to get around the fact that some people might conceal information." The biggest hot button he says is homosexuality. "This is a stigmatized group. There is probably a lot more homosexuality going on than we could get people to talk about." Does anyone actually believe that people go around claiming to be gay so they can be the center of attention or because the schools make it so appealing?

Surveys since Kinsey (1948) have varied in their estimates of homosexuals from 1 to 9 percent. Kinsey, by the way, never said 10% of men were gay; his 10% figure represented those who said they were more or less exclusively gay for at least 3 years between the ages of 16 and 53. Studies in 1973 (Gagnon and Simon) indicated 5-6% of males and 3% of females had "substantial homosexual experience". Paul Cameron's questionable study (1985) indicated 5.8% of men and 3.1% of women identified themselves as gay. 3.7% of men self identified as gay in the Harry study (1990), and 9% of men and 5% of women reported "ongoing" or "frequent" homosexual experiences in the 1993 Janus study.

Ultimately the question is what difference does it make if it is 10% or 1%? The political fundamentalist want it both ways. When they're trying to convince the country we are a powerful economic and political force, we are everywhere; when they're trying to convince the politicians to ignore us, even 1% is too high. Business may jump into advertising in gay magazines or show gay characters in their ads if they think the market is big enough, and politicians might look at the statistics to see if they should worry about the gay/lesbian vote.

But does being part of a group that is 1% or 10% of the population decide a person's worth or whether or not she or he is to be treated with respect? Do you have to be in a group that is 5% of the population or above in order to have basic civil rights? The furor over numbers is a red herring. The ultimate question is whether human beings, no matter what tiny minority they can be placed in, deserve fair and equal treatment by their societies. λ

The
United Court
of
The Rising Suns Empire
cordially invites you to
THE PRINCE ROYAL BALL
Saturday November 12
The Springs Motor Hotel
Admission $10 Time 6PM

THE WHY IS FOUND IN THE READING AND VOTING PUBLIC!

by Franklin Whitworth

One of the most pervasive themes and questions that has arisen in recent elections is that of character. Whether the question is who lied the most, as in the Virginia contest between Chuck Robb and Ollie North, or if Roy Romer abused his powers by using the state police who guard him for personal errands, Americans seemed obsessed with the question.

Perhaps the greatest questions have risen over marital fidelity (as in the case of the President) or around the personal quirks and life of Ted Kennedy. Such personal flaws in our leaders seem to be relatively new to us. We certainly didn't hear much about such things in previous decades.

But is this really the truth? Were our leaders of yore clean of sin and perfect in all ways? Or is there another element at play here?

The truth is that men and women are flawed. They have always been and will always be. Christian doctrine teaches that perfection has not existed on earth except in the Body of Christ. Politicians and leaders of yesteryear were just as flawed then as they are today.

What then is the difference today? Why do there seem to be more cases of sin and degradation among our leaders? Why do we see so much "questionable behavior today as compared to yesterday?

There are two principle answers to this complex question. First, the answer lies in the national press. Until the last decade or so, the Press largely left a public figure's private life private. When the Press became aware of some personal indiscretion, perhaps a jaunt into a bedroom where other than one's spouse was waiting, a not uncommon practice then and now, they chose to ignore it.

Today, however, the Press seems to march to a different drummer. Sensation is the word of the day and exposing personal sin is one of the best ways to create sensation. Blood, guts and sex sell papers and attract viewers. What does it matter what harm this philosophy does to individuals or the nation?

The why of this new found obsession with the prurient is largely related to the number two answer to our complex question. It seems insatiable. While in public they will tell you they are appalled by all the sex and violence in the papers, privately they can't wait to get home and dive into a world that exists on a diet of the same.

"There are no bars [to what we will report]," Joe Klein of Newsweek Magazine said on a recent C-Span talk show (Sunday, October ,1994.) "We are wallowing in a great public cesspool and I don't think we will ever get back [to more responsible reporting]."

The public is like a high-priced vacuum cleaner, ready to suck up all the dirt it can find. Also new, however, is the rise of an element that not only relishes sucking up the dirt but, also, who, when it is politically correct for their beliefs and philosophies, equally enjoys magnifying and spewing this dirt back on the world at large.

But this segment of society is, it would seem, selective. The question of character only becomes important to a large number of them when political philosophies do not agree. For them, character is only important if you are not on the same philosophical wavelength as they.

Bruce Benson's backers are key among this element. It seems that Bruce, a political conservative and golden boy of the politicized fundamentalist movement, has a few skeleton's in his closet (if you'll excuse the term.) Two drunk driving conviction and a very messy divorce loom over his past. Enough, you would think, to drive away any God fearing fundamentalist!

Not so. The papers have been filled with Benson apologists. The theme—sure he did wrong but at least he owned up to it.

Never mind that he only owned up to it because it became public and he had to. Never mind that his indiscretions are a matter of public record and that he was found guilty by courts of law. He owned up to it! That' all that counts.

These are the same people that attack and denounce President Clinton and are ready to cast him down to hell for charges that are to now hearsay, never proven in court and only the subject of Press coverage and rantings on the likes of Pat Robertson's "independent and honest" news programs.

These are also the same people who on the day of the writing of this article are calling for a "Grand Jury"investigation of Governor Roy Romer's use of state troopers to run personal errands. Guess they didn't read the part where he owned up to an error in judgement and confessed that, in retrospect, it was wrong. *"Don't count, I guess. After all, he's one of "them" liberal democrats!"* It doesn't matter, also, that he is one of the most effective and scandal free elected officials in the country.

The point is this. A certain element has become obsessed with finding some personal scandal or wrongdoing in the background of all of a another element of public officials that has a different philosophy than its own. The other side, forced into a corner, has replied in kind. This is all fired by a chicken and egg situation. The nation's Press, faced with a need to sell papers and attract viewers, feeds the hunger that is upon us or sinks into oblivion.

What we are doing is preventing some of our most talented potential leaders on both sides of the political spectrum from ever entering the foray because they either have some small skeleton in their closet or that they are just abhorrent to become enmeshed in the melee.

The mess in Washington and, or, in Denver, Richmond, Chicago, etc., my friends, is not the politicians' fault. It is our own. No one denies that there are elements of one's private behavior that are relevant to their pubic performance. There always have been. But what we've lost contact with is restraint. It's time we decide to return to the "good old days" when a politician's non-relevant private life is just that—private. Unless we do, what we are going to find is an ever narrowing pool of potential qualified leaders and lawmakers with ever narrowing abilities to lead. λ

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCE THROUGH PARADOX (Part 2)

BY NOEL BLACK

In Part 1 of this series Noel Black, the author and narrator, was told by his mother that both she and his father are gay. His immediate reaction was one of anger and withdrawal. In Part 2 he begins to delve into the implications of this revelation for him personally. This series is excerpted from Noel's award winning thesis of the same title.

"Does this mean I'm gay?"

"What if people find out?"

"Is it possible for her to change?"

So many questions reeled through my mind, captured in that lobby and going nowhere. There was no question I would keep the secret. I would surely be scorned for my parents' homosexuality. Even if I wasn't publicly scorned, I didn't want people to suspect that I, too, was homosexual...

"Am I who my parents are?"

Everything that was O.K. for my friend Brooke and my friend Marc, both of whom had lesbian mothers, was terrible for me, and I had a gay father on top of that: I was different with a capital "D".

The only way for me to deal with this difference (and I look at it now as the only way I could have survived) was to disassociate myself entirely from by parents, from their homosexuality, and from the little family structure they were able to provide. I cultivated my own homophobia and used their "difference" as a springboard toward my own self definition. I became "Average Heterosexual Macho Athlete Student Boy", as if conformity would make me a super-hero (it wasn't until later that I was able to connect that conformity with a personal mediocrity). I kept up on all the standard fag jokes and went about my life as though my parents weren't really mine. I spent all my energy trying to become a part of other people's lives: looking to them and their families for answers that I didn't think my mother or father could provide. I was certain that there was a better family for me; that Ward and June Cleaver were waiting at the back door and all I had to do was find the right house. I watched other kids' lives: what they did, how they talked, what they said. I thought imitating my friends who had "happy heterosexual" families would make me the child of happy heterosexuals. I was writing my own fairy tale, and it seemed fool proof — except I never felt satisfied. I lived vicariously through countless friends and girlfriends, wandering like a nomad, hoping that each new person would provide a family structure and an identity.

Looking back, I think that my course in conformity and living others' lives began to change when I was sixteen, a junior in high school. I came into the kitchen one morning and found an open letter on the table. It was the usual "Hi, how are you" note that my dad sent along every month with the child support check. I glanced at it casually as I did with all the letters he sent to Mom, mostly to see if he'd bothered to mention me. At the bottom it read:

"T-cell counts are still above 50 and I'm feeling good."

I didn't know what T-cells were, but my heart sunk. It seemed unusual that he would mention anything about his health, especially to Mom. "My father cannot have AIDS," I thought, "he has been with the same man for *fifteen* years." I walked into my mom's room holding the letter.

"What are T-cells, Mom?" I asked. She looked at me with that expression she had worn in the airport when I was nine, glanced at the letter in my hand, and the looked back up as she propped herself against the backboard.

"T-cells are part of the body's immune system, and they help to fight off disease."

"So why does Dad mention his T-cell count in this letter?" I presented the folded piece of paper as evidence. I felt embarrassed that I'd read her mail, but something told me that she'd left it out for me to see.

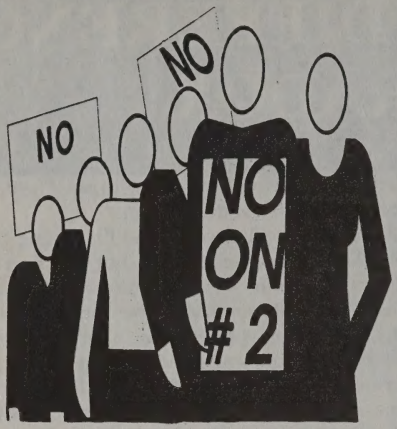
"I gave your father a year to tell you, and it has been a year and three months." I knew what was coming, and the weight of her tone covered me like a lead jacket.

"Your father was diagnosed HIV positive about three years ago. I'm sorry he hasn't told you by now." There it was, all out on the table, just like she'd always done it.

"But I thought Dad had been with David all this time," I said, putting my hand on my hairline as though the sun were blinding me. My mom just shook her head, whispered "sorry's" and offered her arms a cradle as the voice of naivete scolded me for my ignorance. And there was the big "D", hidden in my parents' sex drives, coursing through my father's veins: hidden and silent. It was a voiceless difference — a silence of shame and guilt.

My father did talk to me about "it" eventually — about 2 months after that short conversation with my mom — and I pretended that I didn't know. We were in the Tucson airport (of course) and he told me that he "had some tests done, and the results weren't so good," He couldn't look me in the eye; he squirmed with discomfort.: "But I'm doing fine, and I'm optimistic that there will be some kind of resolution." The silence was still there, and I had learned it from him. He couldn't say "HIV" or "AIDS"; he couldn't even say "cure". Unlike my mother, everything with my father was under the table, unsaid, ambiguous. All I really knew about him was that he was gay and he had AIDS: different, not me. (To be continued NEXT MONTH.)

λ



"TWO FOR THE SHOW"
BY
SALVADOR RODRIQUEZ DEL PINO

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1994 AT 7:00 P.M. IN UNIVERSITY CENTER ROOM 124 ABC
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

"Two for the Show" Planned for UCCS Performance

The University of Colorado at Boulder's Outreach Council, a division of Academic Affairs, has funded a project entitled *Community Issues Through Dramatic Performances*. The project is administered by CU's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race (CSERA), and entails the performance of "Two for the Show," written by CSERA professor Salvador Rodriguez del Pino.

"Two for the Show" highlights issues of discrimination and perspectives on ethnicity, gender and sexual preferences. It premiered at UC-Boulder, on May 4, 1994, with a cast consisting of students in a Chicano Theatre class. It was then presented as a staged reading for the On the Border/Between Bridges Latino Theatre Festival. Since then, "Two for the Show" has been remounted for this project to generate interest, explain issues and create discussions on the implications of Amendment 2, which passed by the general election of Colorado in November 1992, and has since been ruled unconstitutional by the Colorado Supreme Court.

An attempt is being made to bring these issues to communities directly affected in order to generate awareness and civic action, communities such as Colorado Springs.

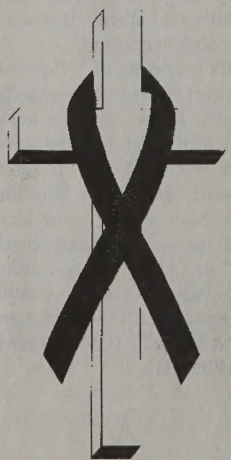
"Two for the Show" is directed towards students, ethnic communities, and gay and lesbian organizations. These communities are directly affected by the spirit and wording of Amendment 2, as it was presented to the voters in 1992. By presenting "Two for the Show" to the students of UCCS and the community of Colorado Springs, the project intends to not only create discussion and dialogue on Amendment 2, but on more general issues concerning discrimination which is the underlying theme of Amendment 2. These issues include discrimination on race, class and gender.

Discussion will take place between the actors and audience after each performance and will involve the community on issues directly affecting their interests and rights.

"Two for the Show" consists of a core of professional and community actors from metropolitan Denver. The production is directed by Jose Guadalupe Saucedo, formerly with the renowned Teatro de la Esperanza of San Francisco. Mr. Saucedo co-directed *La Carpa Aztlan Presents: I Don't Speak English Only*, which was performed by Su Teatro at UCCS in the Spring of 1994, and toured nationwide. Mr. Saucedo has been a guest director in San Antonio, New York and Los Angeles. He has also directed in countries throughout Latin America as well as Poland, France and Spain.

The performance will be held at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, on Friday, November 4, 1994, in University Center Room 124, at 7:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Because God Cares



Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness

Presbyterian Church (USA) and HIV/AIDS

What is HIV/AIDS? Who is affected?

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The suppression of the human immune system leads to serious illness and eventually to death. AIDS is spread principally through contaminated needles or sexual contact.

Within 6 years, between 30 and 40 million men, women and children will be infected with HIV worldwide. The infection rate for children, women and the elderly is escalating. Most everyone in our nation knows or soon will know someone who has been infected with HIV/AIDS.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

–calls for the church at the congregational level to minister to persons with AIDS, their families and loved ones in a nonjudgmental manner.

–calls upon Presbyterians to condemn the potential threat of AIDS as an excuse for discrimination.

LITANY OF HEALING.

God of love, you enter into our darkness, our pain, and our brokenness; and you stretch out your healing hands to us wherever we are;

We praise you and thank you, O God.

Touch with your healing power the bodies of all who suffer from sickness, injury or disability, especially those with AIDS and HIV infection, and make them whole again.

Hear us, O God of Life.

Let us now name before God those, including ourselves, for whom we seek healing, and those in any other need.

Concluding Collect:

O God, in you all darkness is turned into light and all brokenness is healed: Look with compassion and love upon us and upon those for whom we pray, that all may be recreated in the wholeness of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Litany adapted from "Resources for Healing and Prayer in the Age of AIDS", by The AIDS Ministries Program of Connecticut.) This resource produced by the Office of Health Ministries, USA, Presbyterian Church (USA) and Presbyterian AIDS Network, PHEWA, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202.

OMS #72580-94-008

pan

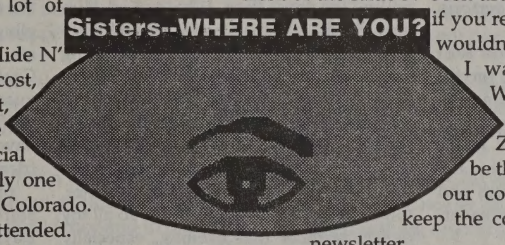
An Open Letter to Lesbians of Southern Colorado from Julie Cooper

Now that the dust has settled after Coming Out Week, many questions and answers will be probed during the evaluation process.

First, let me personally thank all the lesbians out there who supported any or all of the Coming Out Week activities. You are treasured and I love you all!

Unfortunately, one question kept coming to my mind during last week events: "Where were all the lesbians?" Granted, the faithful few supported their community, but, womyn, Ground Zero is here for all of you.

In the past, we asked the community what activities they would like to see more of. One request kept surfacing. "We like to be entertained for not a lot of money."



The Masquerade Party at the Hide N' Seek was an incredible bash, only cost, an item of clothing from your closet, and your first drink was on us. We had D.J.'s, dancing, and a very special performance by Misty McCrae, truly one of the finest female illusionists in Colorado. Only about 100 lesbians and gays attended.

Ground Zero arranged for Jamie Anderson, a nationally known lesbian singer, to kick off Coming Out Week at True Colors. The cover was only $5. Jamie put on a fabulous show for the 60 or so that attended. Sixty. That's all.

How many of you stayed home each of those nights, rented your hetero-videos, and ordered your Domino's Pizza? (Domino's is one of the largest financial backers of Operation Rescue). How many used that night to shop for grocery items and purchased products made by Cracker Barrel, Morton's, Chiquita, Coors, and other companies funding right-wing activities? How many went out that night and patronized a business that doesn't outwardly support gay or womyn's issues?

C'mon womyn, why do we continue to hand over our hard-earned dollar to businesses and organizations that do not support us?

"I'm just not a political person," is the whiny excuse I constantly hear.

Well, surprise! You don't have to be political to support gay organizations, just gay. You don't have to be "out" to support gay activities, just gay. You don't have to be rich to support gay functions, just gay.

"Amendment 2 was overturned, so what's the difference?" Well, YOU are the difference. Will Perkins stated, in front of the Colorado Supreme Court, on camera, that if "2" was found unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, CFV would draft another amendment to do the same thing Amendment 2 tried to do. And, guess what gang? You can bet it's going to be slicker, and the wording far more appeasing to the legal powers that be. It will be coupled with a glossy, mom-and-apple-pie campaign that could lull any reasonable person into believing they were doing the right thing by voting for it.

Without a contrary force to contend with, CFV has the money and legal expertise to easily accomplish this. Luckily, Ground Zero is that contrary.

One of the short-comings of the EPOC campaign in 1992 was that we were constantly on the defense to CFV's attacks. They had a full one-and-one-half year's head start and came out shooting with both barrels.

Ground Zero has the opportunity, now, to get a head-start on CFV; to be pro-active, to be a positive force and influence in the community, and to truly change public opinion for the good of everyone, especially for our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered sisters and brothers locally, and across the country. And you are an important element for this change.

Listen, we're not asking you to hang from a lamp post in front of the Hide N' Seek dressed in drag and shout "Honk if you're gay!" (Although, I personally wouldn't ask anything of anyone that I wasn't willing to do myself!) We're simply asking for your support and energy so Ground Zero can continue its efforts to be the voice of lesbians and gays in our community, and to continue to keep the community informed with this newsletter.

Ground Zero welcomes and encourages open communication with the community. Call us with any suggestions for future functions or any fundraising ideas. We need your support, we need your input, WE NEED YOU, and, my dear lesbian sisters, you need us.

So next time Ground Zero has an activity, come support it. Future lesbians will look back and thank you for it! λ

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER

True Colors **continues its monthy select beer specials, offering special prices for the select beer of the month all of the time and extra reduced prices during happy hours. Shelly Navranjo will also be back in November. For information, Call Tina at 637-0773**

The Denver Women's Chorus opens its 10th Anniversary Season with a CABARET Show, Saturday, November 12 3:30 and 7:30 at the Fiedhoff Ballroom in the Green Center at the Colorado School of Mines, 18th and Cherokee in Golden, Colorado. Tickets $15.00 and $12.00. Pre-payments can be sent to DWC, P.o. Box 2638, Denver, Co. 80202.

COMING OUT WEEK ACTIVITIES

A Smashing Success

By Sue Rospapa

October 11th marked the "official" national "Coming Out Day." Ground Zero marked this event with a week filled full of activities. To start things off, GZ sponsored singer/song-writer Jamie Anderson, who performed at True Colors on Friday, Oct. 7. This performance was truly amazing considering an hour or so before her scheduled appearance she was involved in a car entanglement which did considerable damage to the front end of her car. I happened to have been a passenger in her car and luckily no one was injured, just shaken.

It was my pleasure to provide accommodations to Jamie during her stay and equally my pleasure to listen to her beautiful fun-filled voice as she rehearsed in her room. She enjoyed the lesbian community very much and has agreed to perform again for us. Stay tuned.

On Sunday, Oct. 9, Reverend Nori Rost provided inspiration during her service (5pm) at the Metropolitan Community Church. The church was filled to capacity as the congregation listened to Rev. Rost's encouraging words. We were equally transcended by the beautiful voices and song of the MCC chorus under the leadership of David Corder.

Ground Zero's presentation of *GROWING UP GAY* as a part of its regular "OUT" Series on Colorado Springs Cablevision Channel 9 was the best received of all of the TV programs we have sponsored. It aired on "Coming Out" Day itself and could not have been more appropriate.

With the co-operation of Kimball's Twin Peaks, GZ held "Gay Night at the Movies" on Thursday at the 7:40 pm showing of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.* Ping-pong balls were the HOT sales item for the evening at 50 cents a ball. To all those ladies who purchased one, two and in some cases three balls, thanks! (nothing like a little audience participation if you know what I mean and if you don't know, see the movie!)

On the following evening, Friday, Oct. 14, GZ hosted a Masquerade Party at the Branding Iron in the Hide - N - Seek Complex. Costumes were optional. Frank M. was dressed in the traditional Roman toga. He was quite a sight as he twirled around the dance floor. What a man! Nice legs, Frank..... Julie Cooper was done up as a golden haired goddess who during part of the evening was seen hanging from the lamp post on Colorado Avenue soliciting cars to "Honk if you're gay!". I personally was waiting for a police car to drive by but luckily coerced Julie inside under the pretext that I wanted to dance. (She's not a bad dancer, at that!) To all my dance partners that evening, especially you, Sally, thanks!

Due to the tremendous success of the Masquerade party, GZ was able to donate 3 large boxes of clothing to the Marion House. (A piece of clothing from "the closet" not only gained you admittance but also a free drink.) We all enjoyed the performance of Misty McCrae along with the spinning talents of our DJ's for the evening, Maurcedes Cordoba and Vicki Gregor.

To all those who helped GZ celebrate "Coming Out" Week our sincerest thanks..... As I look back on the week's activities, I realize that I struggle with "Coming Out" on a daily basis. I measure my progress in "baby steps", one at a time. It is at these events, where I can interact with my gay brothers and lesbian sisters, that I build the stamina and courage that sustains me in this homophobic society, especially here in the Springs. One of the best things I did to help me in this process was to become more active in the GLBT community. If you are struggling with coming out issues, come join me. Volunteer at GZ or the Community Center or any other GLBT organization. I guarantee you will meet some very wonderful, talented, loving people. I know I have and am truly blessed with their friendship.

ps..... GZ has a few "Coming Out" T-Shirts (designed by the ever so talented David Feinberg or Fein Design and printed by Susie of Action Images) You can pick up a shirt at the GZ office above the Lotus Eater or at Poor Richards. Coming Out hasn't ended, it's only just begun!!!!!!!

λ

S-CAP

Interfaith Service Held- To Honor AIDS Awareness

The Southern Colorado AIDS Project, in conjunction with The Southern Colorado Aids Project Interfaith Coalition, in honor of October, National AIDS Awareness month, held an AIDS Interfaith Service on the evening of October 23rd at First Congregational Church in downtown Colorado Springs.

The Service consisted of a dramatic piece entitled *LIFE TOUCHES LIFE...The Grapevine*, written by Ed Lyons of Dallas, Texas, and edited by the Interfaith Coalition. Cast members included Drama Team participants from Calvary United Methodist Church and the Metropolitan Community Church drama team. A beautiful Liturgical dance was coordinated by Lola West, also of Calvary UMC and Carol Wilson of First Christian Churchplayed the piano and organ.

Participating clergy included Assistant Prioress, Sister Jose Sanchez of Benet Hill, The Rev Dr. George Otto of Broadmoor Community Church, Rev. John Olenyik, Rev. Betty France, and Matthew Robinson, all of Calvary United Methodist Church; Deacon Tom Parrish of the Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs, Rev. Gaylord Hatler and Rev. Eugene Brink of First Christian Church; the Rev. Jan Richardson of Pikes Peak Hospice and the Rev. Nori Rost of the Metropolitan Community Church; Steven and Linda Brooks of the Springs Community Church; the Rev. Maxine Maybin of St. Raphael Episcopal in Security and the Rev. Steve Baxter of Vista Grande Church. Multi-denominational pastoral care was available following the service to those that expressed a need.

According to Gerda Fletcher, President of P-FLAG, who attended the service, the importance of coming together like this on such an important subject was "underscored by those who hurled slogans of hate at those in attendance as they entered. A small group of "Fred Phelps" type demonstrators were on hand. The Service, according to Fletcher, and this happening, brought us all closer together."

The mission of the Southern Colorado AIDS Project Interfaith Coalition is to offer spiritual support to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. By providing a non-judgmental presence of grace, hope and compassion, the Coalition respects and honors each persons background and beliefs.

If you desire more information about the Southern Colorado AIDS Project, or the Interfaith Coalition, you may contact Mark McNeil at 578-9092. λ

IF YOU AIN'T FER ME--Y'ER AGIN ME

Viewpoint

By Franklin Whitworth

I grew up in ancient times--the forties and fifties. I am often amused by those who hawk going back to these "good ole days." First, because not all about those days were "good" and, secondly, because you can never go back. Let's face it, conditions are just not the same.

Today's population is more than double that of 1950; we move from one place to another safely in no time flat and world communications are unbelievably fast. If Prince Charlie blows his nose in his girlfriend's bedroom, I know it before he puts his hankie down. We are, indeed, part of a world culture. The possibility of "isolationism" that was the cry of one political philosophy in days of old is a total impossibility from state to state and country to country. Nonetheless, there were things in "the good ole days" that were good and could and should still be the rule of thumb today.

I started working in politics in 1948 at the tender age of eight. For most of my life, until thirty, I was preoccupied with this endeavor. I was always involved with socially conscious or liberal causes and was identified by most of my community, a conservative community, as one of those liberals.

We fought good battles, supporting our philosophies and candidates to the best of our abilities. We'd go door to door; pamphlet from one end of the town to the other and speak at the drop of the hat. On election day, there would be ten or fifteen partisan pollworkers getting in that last pitch as the voters entered the polling place.

The important difference then was that we were political adversaries--never enemies. The day after the election, we came together as a community and supported our elected officials. We were, after all, Americans first. We accepted the vote of the people (and court decisions) and we supported our government. Those elected were not our enemies and those who elected them were our friends.

Today, there seems to be a whole new attitude. "If you ain't fer me, y'er agin me" seems to be a prevalent feeling in today's society. Almost before an election is over, a great part of society sets out to destroy those elected, personally and politically, and to defeat any program that they propose. Who will win the next election becomes more important than what happens between elections.

When it became apparent that Bill Clinton would be elected President weeks before he was even elected, those on the radical and politicized fundamentalist right began an unmerciful attack that has, to this day, not let up. Their objective, it would seem, has been from day one to destroy this presidency and to prevent it from accomplishing anything. They do not seem to care what damage it does to the country and how many people this tact destroys personally. The end, it would seem, justifies the means. Bill Clinton is not the President who was elected and who also belongs to the other party (such as he would have been considered in the fifties)--he is, rather, the enemy, to be destroyed at all costs.

I highly admired and respected Dwight Eisenhower, even though I did not support him. He was President and I respected him for what it took to become president and for the awesome job he had to fulfill. He was our national leader. When I came to disagree with Lyndon Johnson over Viet Nam, I did not hate him--I disagreed with him. I did not spend all of my time vilifying him and preaching hate against him. I opposed one specific policy.

Even Richard Nixon, whom I probably opposed more than any other elected official in my life, did not bring my personal ire until it became apparent that he had misused his office and had, in the course, done great damage to the nation I love and support.

I could go on with these observations through the Ford and Carter administrations and to Reagan's terms in office. I believe to this day that Reagan was one of the worst presidents ever to serve. Time has only reemphasized this opinion. Nonetheless, I didn't spend my time during his presidency trying to destroy him and his presidency at all cost. He was, afterall, our president and worthy of my support and respect. I might have fought him on specific issues--but I never considered him my enemy to be vilified and destroyed.

Several weeks ago, I had a talk with a conservative lady, a senior citizen. All she could talk about was how much we need term limitations so that we can get rid of Teddy Kennedy. When I asked why, she launched into a long diatribe on his character--on things about his personal life. She didn't talk about his philosophy, though I knew that this was what was really driving her. She was using some knowledge of Kennedy's personal life to vilify him and make him unacceptable. When I asked her if she knew that there has never been the slightest taint on Kennedy in relation to his performance in the Senate; that he is considered one of the hardest working Senators on the floor and that he has been reelected over and over by his constituency based on his performance, she replied, "He still stinks."

This attitude permeates from Washington to Colorado Springs, in every election, toward essentially every person that runs for office or dares to oppose beliefs or philosophies of certain elements. It seems principally to come from those that have an agenda that to them is more important than America. It comes from those who have an agenda to impose their will and their vision of what America should be on all of us. They have no tolerance for those who disagree with them. To disagree is to become their enemy. It is reason to hate.

So, if I were to recognize better things in the "good ole days" it would be the absence of this attitude--or, at least, if it were not absent, it was not so prevalent. When all was said in done in those days, we were still community--we were still friends and we all loved our country--each in our own way. λ

News from GLAAD DENVER

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

BENETTON, the Italian clothes-maker with a progressive social agenda, created a fake obituary ad campaign featuring a doctored photo of former President Ronald Reagan with visible AIDS-related lesions in its latest issue of their magazine Colors

The piece was created by editorial director Oliverio Toscani, who maintains that Reagan "did nothing to spread the use of condoms... (or) to sensitize the people to the risk of contracting AIDS."

Conservative talk show hosts across the country are urging their listeners to swamp Benetton with complaints.

Call Benetton at (800) 535-4491 and thank them for bringing attention to the inaction of the Reagan administration during the AIDS crisis.

LOVE OR MONEY

The business section of the Rocky Mountain News is on a roll featuring lesbian investors and entrepreneurs. A "Working Money" feature (6/20) included a lesbian couple in something the "family values" crowd prizes — a family financial planning profile. Plugging a same-sex couple into the tried and true "work + family + retirement" equation the column typically features created an interesting stew of legal, financial and social questions.

Writer Greg Todd's profile of the couple's relationship and goals captured the condition of a happy suburban couple who happen to be of the same sex. Sally Button's financial advice boiled down to one message: Without laws recognizing the relationship, the couple will never achieve the same status as a heterosexual couple. Adhering to the "it's a choice" thinking, Todd unintentionally encapsulated the reality of our heterosexist society, "A life of make-believe, pretense and veiled truths just don't cut it for Denise Dierfeldt. She chose the alternative — life with another woman."

Most recently, a smiling photo of Book Garden owner Kaska Songer greeted business page readers (8/30). Songer and the Book Garden were one of the "reality checks" in a story about independent book sellers and the Rocky Mountain Book Festival. The fact that large chains are carrying "proud, out-of-the closet lesbian author(s)" is a sign of the intensity of competition, says Songer.

ABC'S OF FAIRNESS

The American Broadcasting Company (ABC) has agreed to extend its programming standards to include lesbians and gays. Specifically, lesbians and gays will be added to a list of groups that are not to be "misrepresented, ridiculed or attached" on the television network's programming. Reportedly, the policy change resulted from the enormous LBG outcry over ABC's attempt to censor the "lesbian" kiss episode of Roseanne.

Encourage ABC to actively put the new policy into action by producing fair, accurate, and diverse BLG programming. Write to Christine Hikawa, VP, Broadcast Standards and Practices, ABC, 77 W 66th St., NY, NY 10023.

REEBOK'S MISSTEP

Reebok, a leading manufacturer of athletic footwear, has become involved in a new cable channel venture called "Cable Health Club" (CHC). CHC is a subsidiary of International Family Entertainment (IFE) whose chief executive officer is Tim Robertson, son of rabid homophobe Pat Robertson. The agenda of IFE, as packaged on IFE's The Family Channel, includes mixing re-runs of Bonanza with the intolerance and hate of the 700 Club. Reebok is now affiliated with the bigotry of right wing idealogy. Help explain to Reebok the implications of its decision by contacting Paul Firemen, Reebok International LTD., 100 Technology Center Drive, Stoughton, MA 02072; or Consumer Relations at (800) 843-4444.

For you very own copy of GLADD/ Update - A publication of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/Denver write to GLAAD/Denver, P.O. Box 480662, Denver, Co. 80248-0662.

THE "BS" IN "PBS

In his first news conference since becoming president of the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), Ervin Duggan insisted that gay novelist Armistead Maupin "should be sending us letters of thanks" for broadcasting Tales of the City instead of criticizing Duggan's refusal to co-produce a sequel to the popular and critically acclaimed series.

Shortly after Duggan took over, PBS reneged on a promise to co-produce the sequel to *Tales*. That broken promise has been widely attributed to pressure from homophobic, censorious organizations -which included a hysterical, nation-wide protest to Congress over the airing of *Tales of the City*. "We are the people who have written the work 'courage' across the (TV) screen," Duggan said in response to a series of questions about PBS's swerve toward conservative programming.

At the press conference, Duggan admitted that he has received at least 2,000 letters encouraging PBS to go forward with a sequel to *Tales*. However, Duggan dismissed those letters as a "Coercion" effort orchestrated by Armistead Maupin. Let Mr. Duggan know your thoughts. Broadcast your concerns to Ervin Duggan, President, PBS, 1320 Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698, &703) 739-5000 or (800) 356-2626.

OUR WORLD TELEVISION

Our World Television, the first global Gay and Lesbian Cable Network has arrived. Offering several programs and reaching 320,000 homes, Our World plans to expand to 24 hours a day. Call your cable company and request that they carry this and other LBG programming.

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IN QUEERY THEORY DEED

Nearly 2,000 lesbian, bisexual and gay allies attended the 5th North American Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Study Conference. The 6th Conference, November 17-20, 1994, in Iowa City, Iowa, will be even more exciting. As you will see below, there will be something for just about everyone. *Editor*

From every part of our community--scholars, artists, performers, activists, poets and seekers will convene in at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa to share their theories and their deeds. The conference will feature a compelling balance of grassroots experience and eminent scholarship and some of the most renowned of both in the world. Keynote speakers include **Gloria Anzaldua,** *(This Bridge Called My Back),* **Lani Kaahumanu** *(Bi Any Other Name),* and **Tim Miller** (noted performance artist and one of the censored NEA-four). While a complete list of celebrated presenters and activities is far too long to print here, highlights include:

∇More than 80 panels presenting the papers of more than 300 scholars (such as **Jonathan Katz**) on many areas of les/bi/gay study ∇50+ workshops on everything from Native American Gender/Sexualities to Collusions of Racism and Homophobia to Working Class Queers ∇Video and file screenings featuring many critically acclaimed works ∇A dozen art and photo exhibits featuring work by more than 50 les/bi/gay artists and photographers from around the world ∇Original plays presented in Mabie Theatre ∇An open mike coffee house daily ∇Exhibit hall with recent books and merchandise ∇Conference Dance w/Live Queer Band ∇**Stomp!**, the multiethnic, androgynous performance and **Pomo-Afro Homos!** both in Hancher Auditorium ∇Poetry and fiction readings ∇A quantum leap in consciousness and wisdom ∇Feature-length les/bi/gay films at the Bijou movie house ∇Quiet, intimate nooks to chat and network with the finest people in the world.

For more information, contact the Center for Conference and Institutes, Iowa Memorial Union, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. Special arrangements are available for child care, community housing, Sign, environmental health concerns and special fees are available for financially challenged. The Ground Zero Office also has information and application forms. λ

TEN PERCENT REVUE schedules performances at THE PENTHOUSE Nov. 18-20. First show will benefit S-CAP!!

TEN PERCENT REVUE will be coming to Colorado Springs for a limited engagement at THE PENTHOUSE, 1715 N. Academy, Friday, Nov. 18 through Sunday, Nov. 20, 1994. The event is sponsored by OUT FRONT magazine and The Penthouse.

The four-star hit musical drew the curtain on its premiere performance at the Denver Civic Theatre Sunday, Sept. 18.

The last 14 shows of the 22 show-run played to sold out houses, reports producer Kay Johnson of Red Hat Productions. Henry Lowenstein, owner of The Denver Civic Theatre said, "This has been the most successful show we have ever played in the Dorie Theatre."

Nominated for "Best Ensemble Production" by the Denver Drama Critics Circle Awards, the cast of **TEN PERCENT** will be performing the opening number at the DDCC annual award ceremony at the Arvada Center on October 10th.

Director Kirby Llewellen, who has Lou Gehrig's Disease, has declared this his last venture. Critic's say it is his best. Lewellen has restaged the revue to adapt to the cabaret-style of The Penthouse.

Written by Tom Wilson Weinberg, **TEN PERCENT REVUE** addresses everything from "Family Values," (a number written for Denver's premiere); to "Gay Name Game," a spin-off of the television game of the television game show *Jeopardy*, to "Obituary," which takes a personal look at the loss of a friend with AIDS. The original cast--Mike Szillagyi, Anne Park, Derek Nicoletto, Rochelle Gallup and Susan Draus--will be offering the same energy, irony and outrage which made the Denver run sell out at Denver Civic Theatre.

Through special arrangements with *OUT FRONT* advance tickets are only $10 and $15 at the door. Performance are at 8 pm, Friday, Nov. 18 (a benefit for S-CAP); 5 & 8 pm, Saturday, Nov. 19; and 3 pm, Sunday, Nov. 20. Following the 8 pm Saturday show, a cast party will be held.

For further information and reservations, please call The Penthouse at (719) 587-3314.

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PFLAG

PFLAG is happy to announce that it finally is in a position to start a support group for straight ex-spouses of lesbian/gay partners. It has always been of great concern to PFLAG that straight ex-spouses were suddenly faced with enormous emotional turmoil even when they understood on a cognitive level. We now have a well-qualified, wonderful human being who has worked with ex-spouses for the last 3 years in the Mid-west. For further information call Gerda Fletcher at 596-1130.

DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS

Ground Zero offers an opportunity to many organizations to write articles for this newsletter presenting their point of view. The article below "New Age, Religion and Native Americans" by Rick Romancito published in "speaking OUT" (Taos Human Rights Newsletter) is just one point of view from the Native American community. Ground Zero supports, encourages and nurtures the concept that WE ARE ALL FAMILY. If anyone wishes to present a differing view on this or other subjects, we will be happy to consider it for publication. *Editor*

"The quest for spiritual enlightenment and knowledge is a worthy pursuit, and it should be encouraged. But something is happening within the New Age movement that has many American Indian people very concerned. It has to do with a misconception that native religions are openly accessible to non-Indians.

To begin with : The beliefs held by a widely varied group of indigenous tribes throughout North America are not part of a single religion. The concept of spiritual entities called Kachinas is not part of the same religion as the belief in a spirit road (as pursued by followers of the Native American Church), nor is a Plains Indian Sun Dance ritual part of the cycle of ceremonies related to the deer, buffalo and turtle dances as practiced by the Tiwa Indians of Taos Pueblo.

Each tribe, through centuries of change (and often independently of one another), has developed different beliefs to try to understand its peoples' places in the universe. Some belief systems may have grown out of environmental reactions or as the result of significant incidents or as a way to protect their tribe from becoming dissolved into the social and cultural network of surrounding peoples. Many religions can trace their roots similarly. But each has always been in a state of active evolution.

The native religion seen in the 15th century by Fray Marcos de Niza at Hawikuh, one of the Zuni villages, was likely not the same as that which he would have seen had be visited some 200 years before; today the differences are even more significant. Then there is the peyote religion, which spread from Mexico and was adopted among some Plains Indian tribes during the 19th century. It too, has undergone a wide variety of changes and was subject to a number of influences from native and non-Indian sources during its nearly 200 years of existence among the Plains Indians, the Huichol and others in Mexico.

Yet these differences and their states of evolution never appear to be part of advertisements for "Native American ceremonialism" workshops or seminars. To the uninitiated, the religious component seems shared by all Indians, but to Indians, the distinctions are all-important.

When so-called New Age practitioners begin selectively picking and choosing spiritual concepts from several different Indian religions, as if they're products for sale in a cosmic supermarket, the integrity of native beliefs is threatened. Worse, these people exhibit contempt by assigning Indians to a racist stereotype.

The image of Indians as the repositories of "indigenous spiritual knowledge" should share the same garbage heap as that of the drunken Indian and the romantic "End of the Trial" warrior. However, it is this image so many New Age non-Indian believers possess about Indians that does more damage to the people they celebrate than they'll ever know.

For example, native religion among Pueblo Indians is closely guarded for a reason. It was practiced for centuries before being forced underground by Christian missionaries accompanying Spanish colonists, who began arriving here in the 17th century. It exists today as totally non-proselytizing: Pueblo Indian religion seeks no converts. Tribal membership is the only way in and requires a life-long commitment to the annual performance of rituals, all of which maintain harmony in the spiritual and physical worlds. Each part is important to the whole and cannot be separated without losing its meaning.

This belief system, along with native languages, is among the few intangible aspects of native culture which clearly defines the identity of tribal members. Despite whatever physical appearance of assimilation, these invisible elements, held within the hearts of Naive Americans, are pillars of strength.

But because New Age seekers fail to recognize these insurmountable barriers, the unwanted interest in ferreting out "the secrets of Indian religion" continues, and the real concerns of Indian people are overlooked and trivialized as a result.

High unemployment, HIV-AIDS, substandard education, the violation of First Amendment rights to practice native religion, and persistent discrimination and prejudice all apparently are a little too inconvenient to deal with when a seeker is filled that fantasy of meeting a "real Native American shaman."

It's time for New Age seekers to get real:

* Anyone who is genuinely pursuing native religion doesn't let non-Indians in on it for pay.
* The authentic practitioners of native religion deals only with Indians.
* You cannot learn anything about Indian religion from a workshop or a seminar.
* The only way to participate in an Indian ceremony is to be Indian, period.

The quest for enlightenment should be encouraged, but not at the expense of robbing a culture because of some fantasies about how Indians worship. Instead, seekers ought to look to their own culture to find those things that are truer to their own nature. λ

Happy FIRST ANNIVERSARY
THE COLORADO SPRINGS
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STUDENT JOURNALISTS EXAMINE GAY RIGHTS

Community Reacts with Shock and Anger

Journalism students at Westlake High School in an affluent suburb of Austin, TX, decided to examine diversity at their school. They chose to study gender, disability, racial, religious, and sexual orientation differences in a five-part series of articles. The first topic happened to be homosexuality. Striving to be balanced and unbiased, they presented an interview with a gay student, a summary of religious objections, a graph showing results of a student poll on the topic, and an overview of the struggle for gay rights. Opposing view point columns were also included.

Monday morning when school started the phones to the principal and newspaper office were already ringing. The callers expressed anger, shock and dismay, and some declared the topic itself was immoral. One parent demanded a conference with the teacher advisor and the student editors. He insisted his son should not learn about homosexuality at school but what "I tell him at home". He then asked the student editor, Chip Flynn, "What do you think about pedophilia?" The 18 year-old responded, "Homosexuality and pedophilia are certainly not related. Homosexuality involves two consenting adults, while pedophilia is like rape, because one of the parties is too young to make a mature decision."

His teacher, Deanne Kunz, says of the encounter, "Chip had already taken the risk to educate others. Now he had shown the courage and presence of mind to answer an angry adult with dignity and logic — an adult who was not only questioning his editorial judgement, but repeating the very prejudices that Chip and the rest of the staff had tried to advise people against."

While the attacks led the staff to question their decision to run the segment, Chip says, "Ultimately the staff remained behind the issue as did the school administration."

"As a staff, we still feel that the issue was justified and fully appropriate for this age group. Despite the outcry from the adult element of the community, the students (who were after all our target readership) read the section with interest and little commotion. Possibly its effect was even positive: the gay student we interviewed was elected Homecoming King."

"Yet the experience has not left the staff untouched. Ironically, we have had to follow our own advice and accept diversity: the diversity of opinions different from our own."

The paper also won a first-place award from the National Scholastic Press Association and was one of ten papers recognized by the Texas Chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Journalist Association. It seems the effect was not just positive, but the experience gives credence to the overused phrase "Our children are our hope."(Information taken from the Fall, '94 issue of Teaching Tolerance). λ

HOW MANY CHILDREN HAVE YOU MOLESTED LATELY?

BY GLENN STEHLE

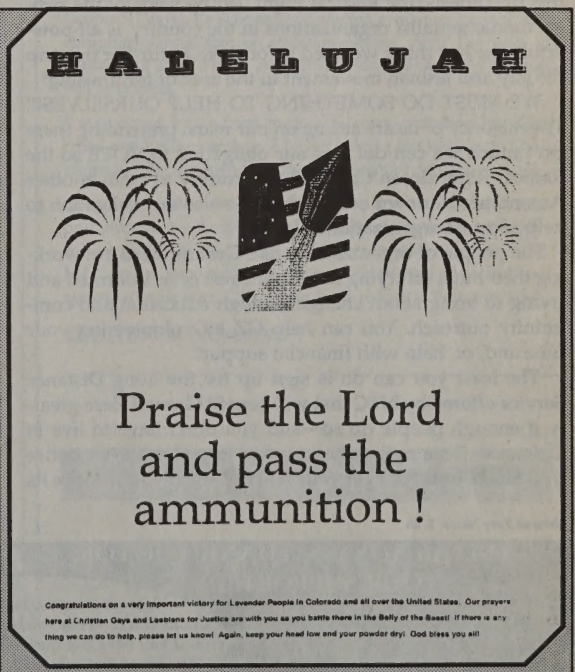
According to Colorado for Family Values, people living a homosexual lifestyle are responsible for 50% of all child molestation.

Since CFV holds that only 1% of the population is living a homosexual lifestyle, this leads to some pretty spectacular calculations.

A minimum of 21% of the people in this country (17% of men and 25% of women) report having been sexually molested as children. This is according to figures released by the National Victim Center in Arlington, Texas. Other surveys put the figure much higher--as much as 27% of the adult population reporting childhood sexual molestation.

If 1% of the 183 million adults in this country--1.8 million of us queers--molested half of those 38.4 million people who claim to have been sexually molested, that means each one of us queers has molested an average of 10.5 children.

Editor's Note: Would these 10.5 children be in addition to or a part of the anywhere from 200 to 500 different sexual partners queers are supposed to have annually. Either way I'm tired !! I think I'll go home and rest for awhile . Gosh, I sure hope I don't have to take care of any of my quota tonight. I need a vacation! Witicisms aside, thanks to Glenn Stehle of the San Antonio Gay and Lesbian Magazine, ***THE MARQUISE*** *for this short, but sweet and insightful statistical analysis.* λ


H A L E L U J A H
Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition !
Congratulations on a very important victory for Lavender People in Colorado and all over the United States. Our prayers here at Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice are with you as you battle there in the Belly of the Beast! If there is any thing we can do to help, please let us know! Again, keep your head low and your powder dry! God bless you all!

The Above was sent to GZ on the overturning of Amendment 2 by our dear friend Samuel Behrens of Gay & Lesbian Christians for Justice in LA. Love You, Samuel.

Help Yourself & Help GROUND ZERO

By Dave Cartee

Let me tell you about the latest venture of the Religious Right. They have formed a non-profit long distance phone company called, LIFELINE, that saves its supporter a whopping 6 to 8% when compared with AT&T rates.

Thousands of people associated with the Religious Right have signed up. Last year over one million dollars was raised and the people at LIFELINE are predicting that in five years, they will be raising 85 million dollars a year for Radical Right activities.

If you question the validity of this, just stop by the GZ office and peruse the materials that LIFELINE is sending out to promote itself.

Much of this money will be used to take away more rights from those who do not agree with the Radical Right, who refuse to believe as the Radical Right believes, and who refuse to bend to the will of the Radical Right. We all know that the first in line for elimination from society and government by the Right are lesbians and gays. The Right is already spending vast amounts to take away what few rights gays and lesbians have. Imagine how successful they will be with another 85 million with which to work.

In this country, money means power. To date, accepting this hypothesis, the Radical Right, led by some of the richest fundamentalist organizations in the country, is all-powerful. The last thing we need is for them to further outstrip the gay and lesbian movement in the area of fundraising!

WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO HELP OURSELVES!!! The majority of us are sitting on our rears, pretending there isn't much we can do. It is our obligation to VOTE so the Radical Right doesn't get the opportunity to cram another Amendment 2 down our throats. It is also our obligation to help support organizations like GZ.

The people of organizations like Ground Zero are working their butts off trying to keep the rest of us informed and trying to bring about change through education and community outreach. You can help GZ by volunteering your time and, or, help with financial support.

The least you can do is sign up for the Long Distance Service offered by NTC that will benefit Ground Zero greatly if enough people do so---and you don't have to live in Colorado. It's a national company. You won't even notice the change until you get your first bill--then you'll notice its a hell of a lot lower than the 6 to 8 % savings that LIFELINE offers. **AS EASY AS THIS IS--I'M EMBARRASSED TO REPORT THAT DAMN FEW PEOPLE HAVE SEIZED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SINCE WE BEGAN OFFERING THIS SERVICE.**

I have volunteered my time to help GZ with this fundraiser and all I have heard since we began are excuses why you won't switch. If we are going to survive and succeed, this attitude must change. We have to be willing to be bothered enough to do something positive--even something seemingly as insignificant as this.

With **NTC** you can save up to 50% on your long distance bill. Pay your bill on time for five months and receive free travel incentives. If you have or want a 1-800 number, you can save money here to. The 800 CALL ME service is designed for customers with 800 usage estimated to be less than $50 per month. After paying a $5 monthly service fee, the per minute charge is only between 17 and 19 cents.

The 800 PLUS service is designed for customers with 800 usage estimated to be more than $50 monthly. After paying a $10 monthly service fee, per minute charges are a low 15 to 17 cents per minute. You can change your current 1-800 service to NTC and keep the same number you now have. All you need do is to fill out a carrier transfer form available at the GZ office.

NTC offers a half price club. When you have your friends, relatives and associates join the club, you can talk long distance with them at rates beginning at 11.5 cents per minute during the day and 5.5 cents per minute at night and on weekends.

You can join NTC at once by calling 1-800-569-4NTC--Don't forget to tell them that you are naming Ground Zero as beneficiary of the 5% gift, or you can fill out the form on the attached page and mail it at once.

IT'S BECOMING HARDER AND HARDER FOR GROUPS LIKE GROUND ZERO TO FIND THE MONEY TO CARRY OUT THEIR FUNCTION. THIS IS ONE EASY WAY YOU CAN HELP λ

AND AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

If you have any questions about the service, please call either the Ground Zero office, 635-6086 and ask for Julie, or if she's not there, ask for her home phone. She'll be happy to answer any questions you may have. ->->->

DONTCHA DO IT!!! DON'T TURN THIS PAGE 'TIL YOU READ THE ARTICLE ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE AND 'TIL YOU FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW!!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

NTC National Telephone & Communications

SERVICE REQUEST

❑ Residential Dial-1 Service
❑ Business Dial-1 Service ❑ 800 Plus ❑ 800 Call Me

Customer Information *Please Print Clearly*

Name (as it appears on phone bill)

Physical Address (not a P.O. Box)

City | State | Zip

Billing Address (if different)

City | State | Zip

Service Information *List each number including area code*

Billing or Main Number ( )

Additional Number ( ) | Additional Number ( )

Present Long Distance Carrier | Estimated Long Distance Usage $ per month

Special Services *Check only the additional services you desire*

☐ Indicate Number of *FREE* Travel Calling Cards desired.

❑ 800 Call Me or 800 PLUS Telephone number to *ring* on: ( ) .

❑ Attached is the 800 Carrier Transfer Form (1600) to transfer existing 800 number to NTC's 800 Plus.

Authorization — PLEASE READ REVERSE SIDE BEFORE SIGNING —

☑ **YES, I authorize National Telephone & Communications (NTC) to act as my agent in all matters relating to my long distance telephone service, and to notify my local phone company to connect me to the NTC network.**

Customer Signature X | Date

Customer Name (Please Print)

Fill our the form above and mail to:
Ground Zero Ref #305001492
P. O. Box 1982
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

ABOUT MY AUTHORIZATION
I will be a customer of National Telephone & Communications (NTC). I am at least 18 years of age and have the authority to sign this Letter of Agency. I may designate only one long distance service. I will receive my bill for long distance usage I have incurred from NTC or I may be billed through my local phone company. My calls will be routed over NTC's designated network provider. My local telephone company may assess a service charge for each phone line I change. I agree to pay for any long distance charges I incur. NTC offers a Prompt Pay Discount when I pay my bill within 21 days. I will receive my Prompt Pay Discount as a credit on my next bill.

800 SERVICE
I understand that 800 Call Me service is designed for the customer whose 800 usage is estimated to be *less* than $50 per month. The 800 PLUS is designed for the customer whose 800 usage is estimated to be *more* than $50 per month.

RISK FREE
I understand that if I am dissatisfied with NTC's service or rates, NTC will, within the first 90 days upon my written request, reimburse me for the cost to switch me back to my original carrier.

EXCITING CUSTOMER INCENTIVES
After I've paid my first 5 consecutive long distance bills from NTC (within 21 days), I will be entitled to select a vacation package with complimentary airfare or accommodations. After I've paid 12 consecutive bills on time, another vacation or a two-for-one cruise will be offered.

I may depart by air from most U.S. cities, including Hawaiian cities, and I must purchase 7 nights lodging in Orlando or 12/14 nights in Hawaii depending upon my point of departure.

Accommodations are provided when I purchase two non-promotional round trip airfares. A $25 processing and handling fee will be paid to NTC. Alternative dates for travel may be offered. NTC is not responsible for the performance of the travel/tour agents, or cruise lines. Other conditions and restrictions may apply.

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REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORT LINE (714) 251-8080

FINALLY A LONG DISTANCE COMPANY THAT WILL SAVE YOU MONEY, GIVE GREAT SERVICE AND SEND 5% TO GROUND ZERO TO AID IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY

Ground Zero's Volunteer Sheet

Ground zero is an all volunteer non-profit organization. To survive we need and accept all help that is offered. There are many different volunteer positons available and no experience is necessary to participate... We believe your volunteer experience at Ground Zero will be self-fulfilling and beneficial to the community. Thank you for your support

Please print and fill in all information, Thank You.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: ( )_____
When is the best time to contact you?_____

Please be specific in what days and times you are available to volunteer

_____
_____
_____

Below is a list of areas where there is an ongoing need for volunteers. Please circle any that you would like to become involved with.

Office Aid	Fundraiser	Information Distributor
Journalists	Telemarketer	Grant Writer
Word Processor	Media	Data Entry

If there are other areas of interest, or you have any qualifications of skills that you would like to offer please explain in this section.

_____
_____
_____
_____

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director
The Funding Exchange

FUNDING EXCHANGE, A New York based national network of 15 local foundations and dozens of individual donors, is committed to supporting grassroots social change activism. Executive Director's responsibilities include: philosophical and operational leadership; relationship with Board of Directors, member funds, current and prospective donors; participation in annual fundraising; representation within the foundation world. Qualifications include: progressive politics compatible with mission of the Funding Exchange; organizational management experience; knowledge of fundraising; background in organizing and experience with membership organization; strong communications skills; ability to travel. Salary in mid-sixties/ Women, People of Color and Lesbians and Gays are encouraged to apply.

All application materials must be received by: November 10, 1994.

Starting Date: February, 1995 Contact:
Search Coordinator, Funding Exchange
328 Flatbush Avenue #326
Brooklyn, NY 11238
212-330-7603 (voice mail)

Requests for packages had to be received by October 31. Ground Zero has requested several packages and will have them in the Ground Zero Office. λ

GROUND ZERO SUSTAINING MEMBER
YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS FULLY TAX DEDUCTIBLE
GROUND ZERO IS A 501- C3 ORGANIZATION

YES! COUNT ME IN AS A SUPPORTER OF GROUND ZERO IN THE STRUGGLE FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANGENDERED EQUALITY

I, WE PLEDGE OUR ❑ MONTHLY ❑ QUARTERLY ❑ SEMI-ANNUAL

NAME_____
ADDRESS_____
_____
PHONE #_____**HOME**
_____**WORK**

❑ **I WILL PAY BY CHECK; PLEASE SEND ME A REMINDER NOTICE.**

PLEASE BILL MY: ❑ **MASTER-CARD** ❑ **VISA**

CARD NUMBER _____**EXP. DATE**_____
SIGNATURE_____

Amount Pledged for each designated period
$_____

❑ **I CANNOT MAKE A REGULAR PLEDGE, BUT I CAN MAKE A ONE TIME DONATION OF $**_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,

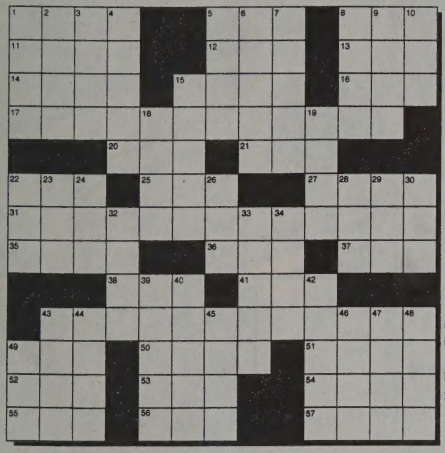
PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD TO: **GROUND ZERO**
P.O.BOX 1982
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901

GROUND ZERO has received a grant commitment to match all sustaining memberships from a major funding source.!! Send your contribution in today!

The Crossword below is published with the gracious approval of Kathleen DeBold. It may be found in her book *WORD GAYMES: 101 puzzles with lesbian and gay themes*, Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc., 1993.

Kathleen is the political services coordinator of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington D. C. Her puzzles appear regularly in the *Washington Blade*, *Lambda Book Report* and other gay and lesbian publications throughout the country. The solution for this crossword will appear in the next *GZ NEWS*.

WORD GAYME # 30: SPECIAL DAYS



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ACROSS

1. Impudence
5. *Rosemary's Baby* author Levin
8. Deli sandwich
11. Region
12. Commie
13. Uncooked
14. It's "nothing" to Colette
15. Chalcedony
16. In the past
17. Gay men who love Easter gifts?
20. High card
21. Gun lovers' grp
22. Cleo's snake
25. Possessed
27. Chimney dust
31. Perfect place for a Labor Day tryst?

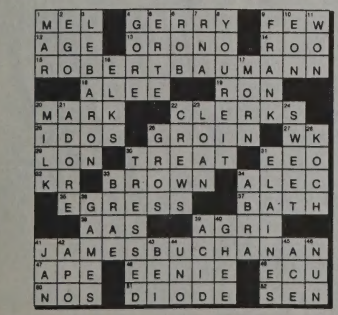
ACROSS (Cont'd)

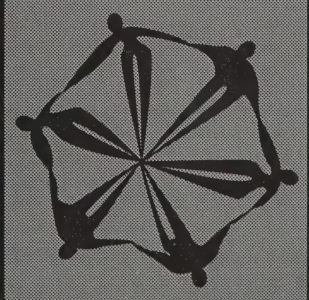
35. Editor's bane
36. Pioneering lesbian org
37. Permit
38. Dance step
41. Grain type
43. Halloween pick-up line?
49. French coin
50. Smoked hog thighs
51. Gymnastics star Korbut
52. Leather tool
53. Scheduled landing time
54. Hawaiian guitar
55. Opp SSW
56. Japanese coin
57. Actors Bissel and Knight

DOWN

1. Attire
2. "O amico fortunato" from *Madame Butterfly* is one
3. Dregs
4. Sri _____
5. Saddam's state
6. Summer T.V. show, often
7. Calculating snake?
8. Muffin type
9. Falls behind
10. Lesbian soap opera, ___ *in Twenty*
15. Rip off
18. Reverberate
19. Not hard
22. Huge corp.
23. Timid
24. Type of pill or squad
26. Accomplished
28. It can be crude and unrefined
29. Single unit
30. It's dyn-o-mite!
32. Native American tribe
33. Jim Morrison's band
34. "Like _ ___ out of hell!"
39. Hurts
40. Perform like Dick Button
42. Rainbow fish
43. Michael Nava mystery, *How*____
44. *Desert of the Heart* author, Jane ____
45. Mideast nation
46. Actress Sommer
47. Matured
48. Former Soviet news agency
49. ___ Diego

Solution to last month's Puzzle





GROUND ZERO

1994

***Maintains a full-time office**

***Publishes monthly, highly respected newsletter**

***Supplies information to thousands of groups/ind requesting**

***Hosted Voice in Unity Conference**

***Completed and distributed *Tearing Down the Walls and* two other videos**

***Presented author Richard Mohr**

***Launched *"We Are All Family"* Campaign**

***Instituted Community-wide Speakers Bureau**

***Major founder, organizer, supporter of CHESHIRE BALL--*Making Smiles for Our Children* Fundraiser**

***Brought Mel White to town, sponsored Fast for Understanding**

***Sponsored concerts by Romanovsky and Phillips, Lucie Bleu Tremblay and Jamie Anderson**

***Co-sponsored with La Guia Jose Zuniga as PrideFest Grand Marshall**

Sponsored appearance of Michael Bussee at PrideFest 1994 Film Festival and showing of *"One Nation Under God"

***Coordinated Community activities for National Coming Out Week**

***Sponsored 8 televised OUT Series Programs on Colorado Springs Cablevision**

***Supported GAY booth at State Fair**

***Hosted Chinook Fund Conference in Colorado Springs**

***Coordinated news and media activities with National, State and Local Press**

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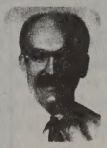

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